

## LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson provides information on Evaluation Area 6, Support Operations/Facilities.

### Lesson Objectives

At the completion of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Identify the four elements to be evaluated under support operations and facilities.
- Summarize the criteria used to evaluate support operations and facilities issues immediately.

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## OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION AREA 6

EA-6, Support Operations/Facilities, assesses the ORO's ability to account for, monitor, and decontaminate evacuees, emergency workers, and emergency worker equipment; to provide temporary care of evacuees; and to ensure that capabilities exist for transporting and treating injured individuals who have been exposed to radiation. The area is divided into four sub-elements:

- a. Monitoring and Decontamination of Evacuees and Emergency Workers and Registration of Evacuees
- b. Monitoring and Decontamination of Emergency Worker Equipment
- c. Temporary Care of Evacuees
- d. Transportation and Treatment of Contaminated Individuals

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### Evaluation Frequency

The minimum frequency for evaluating criteria under these sub-elements is shown in the table below.

Sub-Elements	Minimum Frequency
<b>6.a &amp; 6.b</b> Monitoring & Decontamination	Every facility once in 6 years.
<b>6.c</b> Temporary Care	ARC-managed facilities: After baseline—when newly designated or substantially changed. Non-ARC-managed facilities: Evaluated once in 6 years.
<b>6.d</b> Transportation & Treatment	Every 2 years.

## 6.a MONITORING, DECONTAMINATION, REGISTRATION

Sub-element 6.a looks at the ORO's capability to implement radiological monitoring and decontamination of evacuees and emergency workers, while minimizing contamination of the facility, and registration of evacuees at reception centers. It includes one criterion:

**6.a.1:** The reception center/emergency worker facility has appropriate space, adequate resources, and trained personnel to provide monitoring, decontamination, and registration of evacuees and/or emergency workers.

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### Reception Center Facilities

Radiological monitoring, decontamination, and registration facilities for evacuees/emergency workers should be set up and demonstrated as they would be in an actual emergency or as indicated in the extent of play agreement. Adequate space for evacuees' vehicles should be demonstrated.

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### Scope of the Demonstration

The ORO's demonstration should include one-third of the monitoring teams/portal monitors required to monitor 20 percent of the population allocated to the facility within 12 hours. (This will be worked out in advance by the Region in the Extent of Play.)

The process of operationally checking the instrument(s) should be demonstrated before instrument use begins.

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### Monitoring Capacity

**Evacuees.** Monitoring staff should demonstrate the capability to attain and sustain a monitoring productivity rate per hour needed to monitor the 20 percent EPZ population-planning base within about 12 hours. ***Monitoring productivity rate per hour*** is the number of evacuees that can be monitored per hour by the total complement of monitors using an appropriate monitoring procedure.

At least six individuals per monitoring station should be monitored, to allow demonstration of monitoring, decontamination, and registration capabilities. Individuals can be used more than once as simulated evacuees.

Evaluators will time the monitoring sequences for the first six simulated evacuees per team to determine whether the 12-hour requirement can be met.

**Emergency Workers.** Monitoring of emergency workers does not have to meet the 12-hour requirement. However, appropriate monitoring procedures should be demonstrated for at least two emergency workers.

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## Decontamination

Decontamination of evacuees/emergency workers may be simulated and conducted by interview. Demonstrations should include the ORO's provisions for:

- Separate male/female showering arrangements.
- Limiting the spread of contamination (e.g., using floor coverings, signs, partitions, and roped-off areas).
- Separating contaminated and uncontaminated individuals.
- Providing changes of clothing and storing contaminated clothing and personal belongings.
- Handling the potential contamination of vehicles and personal belongings by contaminated evacuees.

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## Decisionmaking and Referrals

Monitoring personnel should explain:

- Use of action levels for determining the need for decontamination.
- Procedures for referring evacuees who cannot be adequately decontaminated for assessment and followup.

Contamination of the individual will be determined by controller inject and not simulated with any low-level radiation source.

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## Registration

The ORO should demonstrate the capability to register individuals after monitoring and decontamination, including development of a registration record for each individual. Registration can be completed via audio recorders, camcorders, or written records.

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## Review

Based on the general Extent of Play, the table below summarizes how each aspect of reception center monitoring is to be handled in the exercise evaluation. Evaluators need to know their region's specific exercise Extent of Play to determine what will be actual or simulated.

Can Be Simulated and Discussed	Must Be Demonstrated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Decontamination of evacuees</li><li>▪ Decontamination of emergency workers</li><li>▪ Decontamination of evacuee vehicles</li><li>▪ Decisionmaking and referrals</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Physical setup</li><li>▪ Limiting spread of contamination</li><li>▪ Registration</li><li>▪ Monitoring 6 evacuees</li><li>▪ Monitoring 2 emergency workers</li></ul>

## 6.b EQUIPMENT DECONTAMINATION

Sub-element 6.b, Monitoring and Decontamination of Emergency Worker Equipment, assesses the ORO's capability to implement radiological monitoring and decontamination of emergency worker equipment, including vehicles. It includes one criterion:

**6.b.1:** The facility/ORO has adequate procedures and resources for the accomplishment of monitoring and decontamination of emergency worker equipment, including vehicles.

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### Monitoring of Equipment

The ORO should demonstrate the ability to:

- **Monitor equipment**, including vehicles, for contamination, giving specific attention given to equipment that was in contact with contaminated individuals.
- **Make decisions** on the need for decontamination based on guidance levels and procedures stated in the plan and/or procedures.

The monitoring and decontamination area should be set up as in an actual emergency, with all route markings, instrumentation, record keeping, and contamination control measures in place.

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### Monitoring Procedures

Monitoring procedures should be demonstrated for a minimum of one vehicle, including radiator grills, bumpers, wheel wells, tires, door, and interior surfaces of vehicles that were in contact with contaminated individuals. It is generally not necessary to monitor the entire vehicle surface.

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### Equipment Decontamination

Decontamination capabilities, and provisions for vehicles and equipment that cannot be decontaminated, may be simulated and conducted by interview.

Evaluators should make note of combined facilities for monitoring evacuees and emergency workers at the same location.

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## 6.c TEMPORARY CARE

Sub-element 6.c, Temporary Care of Evacuees, assesses the ORO's capability to establish relocation centers in host areas. The American Red Cross (ARC) normally provides congregate care in support of OROs under existing letters of agreement. Sub-element 6.c includes one criterion:

**6.c.1:** Managers of congregate care facilities demonstrate that the centers have resources to provide services and accommodations consistent with ARC planning guidelines. (Found in MASS CARE—Preparedness Operations, ARC 3031). Managers demonstrate the procedures to assure that evacuees have been monitored for contamination and have been decontaminated as appropriate before entering congregate care facilities.

**Frequency.** Facilities managed by the American Red Cross (ARC), under the ARC/FEMA Memorandum of Understanding, will be evaluated once when designated or when substantial changes occur. All other facilities not managed by the ARC must be evaluated once in the 6-year exercise cycle.

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### Evaluation of Congregate Care Centers

Congregate care centers can be evaluated through simulation or demonstration.

- **Simulation.** Demonstration of congregate care centers may be conducted out of sequence with the exercise scenario. It is not necessary to set up operations as they would be in an actual emergency. The evaluator should conduct a walk-through of the center to determine, through observation and inquiries, that services and accommodations are consistent with ARC 3031.
- **Demonstration.** Alternatively, capabilities may be demonstrated by setting up stations for various services and providing those services to simulated evacuees.

Given the substantial differences between demonstration and simulation of this objective, exercise demonstration expectations should be clearly specified in Extent of Play agreements.

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### Services to Evacuees

Congregate care staff should also demonstrate the capability to ensure that evacuees have been:

- Monitored for contamination.
- Decontaminated as appropriate.
- Registered before entering the facility.

This capability may be determined through an interview process.

**Availability of Equipment and Supplies**

If operations at the center are demonstrated, material that would be difficult or expensive to transport (for example, cots, blankets, sundries, and large-scale food supplies) need not be physically available at the facility.

Availability of such items should be verified by providing the evaluator a list of sources with locations and estimates of quantities.

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**6.d TRANSPORTATION AND TREATMENT**

Sub-element 6.d, Transportation and Treatment of Contaminated Individuals, assesses the ORO's capability to transport contaminated injured individuals to medical facilities. This sub-element contains one criterion:

**6.d.1** The facility/ORO has the appropriate space, adequate resources, and trained personnel to provide transport, monitoring, decontamination, and medical services to contaminated injured individuals.

**Note:** Evaluators should **not** focus on the medical treatment of the victims. Radiological aspects of the situation are your primary concern.

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**Victim Transport**

Monitoring, decontamination, and contamination control efforts must not delay urgent medical care for the victim. The ORO should demonstrate the ability to transport contaminated injured individuals to medical facilities. Performance criteria relate to type of vehicle, en route communications, and staff awareness.

- **Type of vehicle.** An ambulance should be used for the response to the victim. However, to avoid taking an ambulance out of service for an extended time, any vehicle (e.g., car, truck, or van) may be used to transport the victim to the medical facility.
  - **Communications.** Normal communications between the ambulance/dispatcher and the receiving medical facility should be demonstrated and should include reporting radiation monitoring results, if available. If a substitute vehicle is used, this communication must occur before releasing the ambulance from the drill.
  - **Staff awareness.** The ambulance crew should demonstrate, by interview, knowledge of where the ambulance and crew would be monitored and decontaminated, if required, or whom to contact for such information.
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**Victim Monitoring**

All monitoring activities should be completed as they would be in an actual emergency. The victim may be monitored before transport, en route, or deferred to the medical facility.

Before using monitoring instruments, staff should demonstrate operational checks of the instruments. Contamination control measures should be demonstrated before and during transport and at the receiving medical facility.

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**At the Medical Facility**

The medical facility should demonstrate the capability to activate and set up a radiological emergency area for treatment, with equipment and supplies available for treating contaminated injured individuals. The medical facility should demonstrate its ability to:

- Make decisions on the need for decontamination of the individual.
- Follow appropriate decontamination procedures.
- Maintain records of all survey measurements and samples taken.

Procedures for sample collection and analysis and for decontamination of individuals should be demonstrated or described to the evaluator.

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